



**CITY OF NORTH BEND
NEWS RELEASE**

March 14, 2016

CITY OF NORTH BEND TO RECEIVE \$100,000 FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE

North Bend, WA – The City of North Bend is likely to receive \$100,000 from the Washington State Legislature’s Transportation Budget for asphalt overlay this year. The appropriation is in response to concerns raised by the City Council over many years, and concerns raised last fall by Mayor Ken Hearing and City Administrator Londi Lindell to Senators Mark Mullet and Curtis King about the adverse impacts the existing truck stop has on North Bend. Senator Mullet brought Transportation Chair King to North Bend for the express purpose of showing him the challenges associated with a small town of 6,400 hosting the only I-90 truck stop west of the Cascade Mountains, particularly when it is estimated approximately 7,000 trucks travel on the I-90 corridor and many travel on the streets of North Bend. These adverse impacts include damage to city streets not intended for the weight of commercial vehicles - one fully loaded large truck does the equivalent road damage of 5,000 to 10,000 passenger cars. Senator Mullet, as a former City Councilmember, understands the challenge a small City faces when dealing with limited budgets in addressing failing road systems.

The City often receives complaints from citizens regarding dangerous roadway conditions caused by truck traffic. One example is an email received from a citizen last month who described having a very “close call” while riding his motorcycle and complained about the “trucking outfit” because the “roadway in front of their place was littered with gravel, mud silt and standing water” caused by the truck traffic and describing these road conditions as “extremely dangerous”.

During approximately the last 10 years North Bend has sought help from various regional stakeholders including the Washington State Department of Transportation, King County, the Port of Seattle and the private trucking industry to address the issues associated with truck stops. Unfortunately, these governmental agencies have concluded these issues should be solved by the private and for profit trucking industry. Previously, the City of North Bend unsuccessfully requested a 1% gas tax for cities with truck stops similar to legislation in place for the City of Blaine but this legislation failed to get out of committee. The City had hoped to use this money for road repair.

The City has a current need to invest at least \$400,000 per year in asphalt overlay merely to maintain its existing roads at status quo. This appropriation from the Legislature will be used by the City of North Bend’s Public Works Department for asphalt overlay to repair some of the damaged roadways throughout the City caused from years of heavy truck traffic. However,

these funds are one-time non-reoccurring funds and are not intended to compensate the City for future truck traffic and/or future adverse impacts from additional truck traffic if there were to be an expansion of the existing truck stop. It is important to note that this budget appropriation was not in response to recent discussions regarding interim land use regulations and/or Planning Commission meetings held regarding such regulations.

The City of North Bend wishes to extend its gratitude to the State of Washington Legislature, Representative Jay Rodne, Representative Chad Magendanz and particularly Senator Curtis King and Senator Mark Mullet for working so hard for the City of North Bend!

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